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INSIDE

Driggers-Mann
plan February
nuptials in
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INSIDE

Elba students
named to
Alabama
All-State Band

The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 32

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, January 22, 2004

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Levee rehabilitation project rekindles lots of memories for some residents

by Bethany Dye

Elba citizens who have watched the levee construction have seen numerous loads of dirt piled on one after another, utilizing the most efficient building tools of the times—mules, shovels, draglines and slip scrapes.

Those who watched the construction of the mid 1930s, that is.

The current rehabilitation of the levee has stirred up long-held memories among several of those who witnessed the building of the first levee after the flood of 1929.

They've hauled enough dirt here in the last week, if they'd had to fill those trucks up with those slip scrapes, we wouldn't have had this levee built in my or your lifetime," Shortie said.

He said while the mules pulled, a man lifted up on the slip scrapes, causing the blade to push into the ground. As it filled, the man pulled down on the extended handle and lifted the blade out of the dirt. When the full slip scrapes reached the hole, the man flipped it over, and the dirt fell through the bridge into the waiting truck.

"They've hauled enough dirt here in the last week, if they'd had to fill those trucks up with those slip scrapes, we wouldn't have had this levee built in my or your lifetime," Shortie said.

Olive Ray and Willard "Shortie" Martin are lifelong residents of Elba. Throughout the rehabilitation of the levee, the Martins have been reminded of their childhood days when the levee was first built, and they assure everyone things have definitely changed.

Tuskegee Airmen set to present youth seminar in New Brockton

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher
The Town of New Brockton will present the youth seminar

NEWS BRIEF

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, officers with the Elba Police Department arrested and charged Cathy Burks Lockett with theft of property in the third degree.

According to Elba Police Chief R.W. Whitworth, Lockett allegedly took an American Red Cross donation can Friday, Dec. 26, from the store counter at Mr. Henry's in Elba.

After a warrant was obtained for her arrest, Lockett was arrested without incident and placed in the Coffee County Jail. Bond was set at \$500.

Chief Whitworth said a large number of citizens in the Elba community receive benefits from the American Red Cross donations, particularly during the holiday season.

The council recently requested an opinion from the attorney general's office regarding quorum, and it seemed fitting to reveal the opinion during the Monday evening meeting, a prime example of why the council made the request.

With Mayor Charles Cole unable to attend, Mayor Pro Tem Johnnie Heron filled in

erment for 50 cents or \$1 per day.

John Glenn Lee said the trucks drove underneath a bridge where mules with carts on top of the bridge would straddle a hole and drop dirt down into the trucks.

"I hated so bad," said Martin with a laugh, "since I was chief engineer on the other one, I didn't go down there and watch them build that and tell those folks about it because they can't imagine that this being done as primitive as it was done."

He said for hauling dirt, people built bodies on their trucks using any material they could find and rented them to the government.

He said while the mules pulled, a man lifted up on the slip scrapes, causing the blade to push into the ground. As it filled, the man pulled down on the extended handle and lifted the blade out of the dirt. When the full slip scrapes reached the hole, the man flipped it over, and the dirt fell through the bridge into the waiting truck.

"They've hauled enough dirt here in the last week, if they'd had to fill those trucks up with those slip scrapes, we wouldn't have had this levee built in my or your lifetime," Shortie said.

Olive Ray said another "prim-

itive" tool the workers used to gather dirt was a digging machine called a dragline. The driver then lifted the scoop above a transport truck and dropped it to dump dirt in the truck.

Shortie said the dragline had a scoop that would bang against the trucks and "tear them all to pieces."

Please See LEVEE, Page 2

Elba school finances show steady improvements
but when the timing is right, he will put in motion the proper procedures to correctly complete the process and get a good coach to lead the Elba team.

Reviewing the financial statement, Weeks was in high spirits. He pointed out that the general fund bank balance is still improving. The monthly sales tax check was the highest in many months, according to the Superintendent.

Board member Bill Brunsom noted that two years ago the balance at this time of the year was

\$117,000; last year it was at \$405,000 and this month the balance is at \$340,000.

This balance will be helpful during the predicted upcoming extreme shortfall of state funds in the next couple of years, said Mr. Weeks.

Weeks also told board members of the school system receiving a \$55,000 per year (two years) Technology Fund Grant. This was a competitive grant. He said that it is aggressively going after these type funds that has helped the school

system rebuild the bank balance and continue to offer a quality education to the Elba public school students.

The board approved the hiring of Cindy Bedsole as Assistant Manager of the elementary school lunchroom. She had worked in the Elba lunchroom for about nine years previously.

Gloria Moseley's certification as Chief School Finance Officer was approved by the board.

Please See BOE, Page 7

NOTICE

Pursuant to §17-22A-8, Code of Alabama, 1975 - Elected officials, candidates and PAC's file with the Probate Court or the Secretary of State an annual report of contributions and expenditures for the year just past (2003). The deadline for filing is Jan. 31, 2004.

Forms may be obtained from the Probate Office by calling 334-242-5211 or 347-5838 or visiting the website at www.probatesite.org or contacting the Secretary of State's office at 334-242-7210 or their website at www.sos.alabama.gov.

Area Happenings

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will meet Monday, Jan. 26, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

AREA RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to offer their input on the future direction of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES), the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), and, specifically, the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center (WRREC) in Headland during a public meeting at the center Monday, Jan. 26, from 6-8 p.m. For more information, contact Jim Bannon at (334) 844-5613 or bjbannon@auburn.edu.

THE 2004 MATA KING'S SWEETHEART PAGEANT will be held Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium. Age divisions will include 0-11 months, 1-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years and 15-18 years. The Elba Masonic Lodge #720 is sponsoring the pageant.

RELAY FOR LIFE IN COFFEE COUNTY will be Friday, May 14, at the Wiregrass Park Community College Campus. Any company, church or organization interested in having a team for this year's event should call Jenny Tolman at the American Cancer Society office at (334) 704-2000, ext. 2. Tuna in For A Cure is the theme for the event.

REMEMBERING THE DREAM...In honor of the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., several Elba residents gathered Monday afternoon, Jan. 19, to celebrate King's life and civil rights legacy. Before beginning their "walk of remembrance," the participants joined together in prayer to give thanks for the many accomplishments of Dr. King. Then, all held hands and sang as they marched in unity, signifying that Dr. King's "dream" is still alive and progress continues to bring equality and harmony to Elba and the world. Although Dr. King was killed by an assassin in 1968, his teachings remain a strong influence in today's society, and Monday's symbolic march in Elba was only one of many held throughout the nation. It was followed in the evening with a church service.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

Wild hogs have become quite common in Coffee County. While some of them are actually imported feral hogs (by real thoughtful hunters, who aren't concerned with anything but their personal pleasure), most are domestic hogs which have strayed from a farmer's field and gone wild (or are the offspring of such a hog). A number of hunters have become very good at tracking down these awfully smart animals. A picture on the sports page this week shows two adult hogs which will not be destroying any more farm crops or pine seedlings. These hunters have endeared themselves with more than one land owner. The hogs seem to thrive in the Pea River swamps and farmers along the river have anything but kind words for the destructive rooters.

The national political news on Tuesday of this week was the Iowa Democratic caucus of Monday. There Senator John Kerry upset the dreams of several candidates, as well as the predictions of several pollsters, when he won the support of 38% of those voting in the traditional event. Equally upsetting to other candidates and the predictors was Senator John Edwards' second place finish with about 33%. The North Carolina senator was predicted to win the seat of the pile just a week ago. We wondered if something might be amiss with the predictions when undisputed from runner Howard Dean of Vermont. He quickly changed tactics and called his grumbling friends from the tube during just a few days of the caucusing. Sure enough he was beginning to get the support of voters actually put him down in a low third place. Also while nothing is official at this writing, most experts (and us as well) predict that Dick Gephardt, the fourth place finisher in Iowa, will drop completely out of the race for the right to meet head-to-head with Republican President George W. Bush. Now, the battle, charges and counter charges all move to the New Hampshire primary set for next week. However if things don't warm up a bit in New England, many voters might throw up their hands and stay by the home fires.

The job picture should be pretty good in this area. Most local businesses and industries are prospering and with the new and expanding industries hiring, times are getting even better. Toledo Molding folks are about to crank off actual production work in their new Elba plant. Company officials said Tuesday they are continuing to interview and hire production workers. The big distribution center at Brundidge is planning to put a bunch of folks to work. Also, we are publishing an ad this week for workers at the new Hyundai supplier in Luverne. It would be overly harsh to say you can get a job if you really want it, but things do appear to be looking up on the local job front.

Grandparents listen up. We read a list of funny sayings recently and it said that grandchildren in the reward part get from their own worrisome children during their teen years. We understand the frustrations of parents trying to raise their children right but also cherish the long-time memories that accompany that respect. Probably the most amazing part of parenting is the years are spent urging children to think for themselves, and then parents anguish over the fact the offspring actually do ponder the facts rather than just doing things the same way the parents would do it.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Jan. 12, 2004, investigated the following incidents: one for domestic violence, two for harassment, two for theft of property, one rape, two for criminal mischief; one possession of a controlled substance, one possession of drug paraphernalia, one domestic dispute, one burglary, one missing person and one attempted suicide.

The following arrests were made: two for theft of property, one for domestic violence, one for failure to pay, one for rape, one for possession of a controlled substance, one for possession of drug paraphernalia, one domestic dispute, one for failure to appear.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: two for no insurance and one for driving with a revoked driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, JAN. 12 - River stage - 6.02 feet (6:04 a.m.); Disturbance reported at the police department (8:38 p.m.); Disturbance reported at Beaver Dam (9:10 p.m.).

CALL CRIMESTOPPERS @ 897-3881 TO REPORT A CRIME REMAIN ANONYMOUS

The Elba Clipper

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John Ferrin Cox - PUBLISHER
Linda Hodge - EDITOR
Ricky Mularz - SPORTS
Heddy J. Cox - BUSINESS MANAGER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 months - \$10, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

LEVEE

(Continued from Page One)

Like the slurry wall installed in the newly renovated levee, Martin said the workers dug a "core" in the first levee and filled it with clay to make the levee's base stronger.

In contrast to the new trench, which is 35-40 feet deep, the first trench was about three feet wide and four feet deep and was dug with shovels and picks.

"They worked for 50 cents a day," Shoffie said. "You try to get somebody to dig with a pick and a shovel down there all day, and for 50 cents down there all day, tell me to go jump in that river down there."

Though the building tools and methods were different in the 30s, levee rehabilitation project manager Gene Oden said the original levee was "very well constructed" and made digging the 40-foot slurry wall difficult.

"It was very well-built," he said. "That's kind of surprising since it was built shortly after the 1929 flood."

The Martins said before the original levee was built, children would get several days' vacation from school each spring because the river rose and washed away the wooden bridge that stretched across the river before the "crooked bridge" was built.

Shortie said the wooden bridge was built low and straight; "just a homemade bridge like they made out in the country."

For a short time, a swinging rope bridge hung over the water in place of the wooden one, Olive Ray said.

"She said finally, a higher, metal bridge was built there. The end of the bridge started a little further down and curved, thus inspiring its nickname "the crooked bridge."

During these spring vacation times, the Martins said riding around the square on boats provided entertainment, and most people weren't nervous about the water's rising because houses are upset because of flooding.

"That was a trying time in our lives," Shortie said. "It was an experience that most folks won't ever have."

Olive Ray said she worked on the water level, however.

They had been filled in around some time after the railroad tracks were removed (probably in the early 80s) and present day officials were not aware that the concrete was still under all that dirt.

Oden said uncovering demolishing and hauling the 25-foot-tall structures away took about four weeks to complete.

To keep as much of the trench intact as they could, Oden said his workers brought in 45-foot metal sheet pilings and drove them in with a harpian crane to prevent the slurry from leaking.

Back then, "I guess it was cheaper to just fill this dirt with what to [remove them]," Oden said.

According to the Martins,

they were massive, unbelievable," said Oden. "What was unbelievable is that nobody remembered they were there. They weren't on the drawings. Most were built higher and not on cement foundations as they are now."

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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Beth Moore Bible Study available to ladies beginning February 2

A Beth Moore Bible study, Breaking Free, will be available to ladies in this area starting in February. A night study starting Monday, Feb. 2 and an afternoon study starting on

Benefit gospel singing planned at Faith Hill Assembly of God Church January 24

A benefit gospel singing will be held on January 24, 2004 at 7 p.m. at Faith Hill Assembly of God in Rutledge, Ala. Featured groups will be the Lighthouse

Taylor Hill Community Baptist Church to host gospel singing January 24

Taylor Hill Community Baptist Church is holding a gospel singing on Saturday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. The featured group will be, In His

EOCC offering Personal Computer Use Made Easy-Level III class

Enterprise-Ozark Community College's Personal Computer Use Made Easy—Level III, offers an opportunity for participants to improve computer usage proficiency and to gain experience using Microsoft Works software. Successful completion of Personal Computer Use Made Easy—

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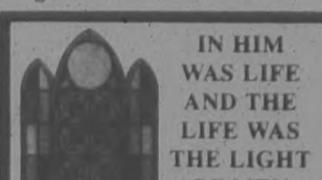
PROPSANE
EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY

A Capella Singing

Friday, January 30
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Hosted by the
Elba Church of Christ
715 North Troy Highway
(across from Windham)

Everyone is Welcome!



IN HIM
WAS LIFE
AND THE
LIFE WAS
THE LIGHT
OF MEN

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Sam Totten, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Elie Phillips-Copes, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Tue. Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Darryl Caldwell, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Class 6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

John Sean, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH

Robert Davis, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST

Rev. Martha Baker
Church Services 9:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

E. H. Hill, Minister
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays

DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Ron V. McLean
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Don Grantham
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Discipleship Training 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

FATH CHAPEL COMMUNITY

CHURCH

Randy Medley Jr., Pastor

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:15 p.m.

ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-9
***Thinking of you, praying for you, M.C. Lawrence, Lena Sims, The Jessie and Allen Families, The Bailey Family, Noah Reynolds, Jr., Rev. Henry Ewing, Jr., Lizzie Tyson, Lela Tyson, Cherie Graham, Rev. E. Magwood, Mattie Belcher, Donald McBride, Johnnie R. Belcher, Ann Henderson Jones, Catherine Waters, Henry Waters, Dorothy Daniels, Ricardo Cook.

Wednesday, Feb. 4. This will be a 10 week study. This study is sponsored locally by Westside Baptist Church For more information call 897-1288.

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Decatur Master's Commission to be in New Brockton January 30

Decatur Master's Commission will be in New Brockton at the Coffee County Farm Center on January 30 and 31 at 7:00 p.m. For more information call Holloway 0802.

Elba Church of Christ to host A Capella Singing

The Elba Church of Christ will host an A Capella Singing on Friday, Jan. 30, from 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information contact Tim Gunnells at 897-2057.

Enterprise-Ozark Community College releases Fall Semester honor rolls

Enterprise-Ozark Community College announces Fall Semester Honor Rolls.

Enterprise-Ozark Community College (EOCC) officially announces the names of students (scheduling 12 or more hours), who maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA, but under 4.0 GPA, during the semester. The fall semester list recognized 163 students.

Nine EOCC students earned Dean's Academic Honor Roll certificates at the end of this fall semester. These students 46 or more semester hours while maintaining a cumulative 4.0 grade-point-average.

Dean's Academic Honor Roll honorees included Patrick S. Nelson, of Kinston.

Ninety EOCC students earned President's List certificates. These students maintained a 4.0 grade-point-average during the fall semester with a course load of at least 12 semester hours.

President's List honorees include James L. Clay, Katherine A. Grantham, and Casey Skinner from Elba plus Patrick S. Nelson and Tara L. Williams, of Kinston.

Dothan Attire is formal or semi-formal. Tickets may be obtained for a set donation and are available from Presenting Elders, pastors, and leaders of the Lay Organization and Women's Missionary Society. All ticket proceeds must be turned in by Saturday, January 24. Members and friends of the Conference may make donations at any time by mailing checks to Bernella Knight, Treasurer, P. O. Box 628, Tuskegee, AL 36087.

Checks should be made payable to South Alabama Conference A.M.E. Church, Inc. For more information, please contact Roberts at 792-8249 or Marge Simmons, Center Secretary, at 393-3827.

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SCHOOLS



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Brittany Cooper
& Christy Eubanks

Students attend Automotive Career Day/International Auto Show event

by Meredith English

On Friday, Nov. 14, the Career/Technical students had the opportunity to attend the Automotive Career Day/International Auto Show in Birmingham.

All of the students, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Canley, Mr. Lawford and Mr. Goodson met at the high school and departed at 6:15 a.m. to leave Elba on a charter bus, only to arrive in Birmingham at 7:45 a.m.

Around 10 a.m., the group listened to a seminar given on the automobile industry. The speakers provided the group with

EHS students named to district and all-state honor bands

by Meredith English

On Monday, Jan. 12, the entire student body was informed of a few very special band members within our school.

Lauren McClung, Elizabeth Weeks, Casey Medlock and Jared Brooks were named to play in the Alabama All-State Band.

Congratulations to all of you, and special congratulations to Lauren McClung for being named the top flute player in the District Honor Band.

According to one band mem-

ber, it singles out who is the best of the best.

Even better Lauren McClung, Elizabeth Weeks, Casey Medlock and Jared Brooks were named to play in the Alabama All-State Band.

Congratulations to all of you, and special congratulations to Lauren McClung for being named the top flute player in the District Honor Band.

Keep it UP!!

Information about the many different jobs available in the automotive industry, while technicians, body part technicians, parts specialists, car sales persons, bookkeepers, finance managers and service writers.

After the seminar, the students were admitted to the International Auto Show where they could view many different new automobiles and concept vehicles from different manufacturers.

The group had lunch at the convention center and then left Birmingham around 2 p.m. They arrived back in Elba around 5 p.m.

EHS students take part in Lemonade Series Writing Scholarship contest

by Katie Driggers

This week's student spotlight is shining on Miss Ceaira Nicole Smith.

Ceaira is the 18-year-old daughter of Jimmy and Carol Smith. She is a senior at Elba High School and is the Parliamentarian for the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.

In her spare time she enjoys shopping, hanging out with friends, dancing, going to the beach and traveling to places other than the United States.

After graduation Ceaira plans on attending Troy State University to pursue a degree in business.

Annual Elbala pageant set for Jan. 31st

The annual Elbala (Campus Beauty) Pageant is fast approaching.

The pageant is open to girls attending Elba Elementary School grades Kindergarten through Sixth Grade (two separate divisions). Entry fee is \$10.00.

The contest is a fundraiser the Elbala Yearbook Staff sponsors to reduce the cost of the annual Elbala Yearbook. All proceeds go directly into the yearbook fund. The journalism staff



Ceaira Smith

Congratulations Ceaira and keep up the good work!

Who I Most Admire

by Sydney Brunson

When people are asked whom they most admire, many choose someone who is larger than life. This person could be a leader of a country, a military figure, or a celebrity. My choice is different. The person I admire most is none of these things. He is someone who makes ordinary seem extraordinary. He is my sixteen-year-old cousin and he is autistic.

When I was young I didn't know what autism was. All I knew was that Jamey was different. He is always moving. He couldn't stand to stand still for too long. The only time I ever saw him still was when he was watching a game show. My mom says that autistic people have abilities that normal people don't. Jamey is blessed with the best memory of anyone I know. Jamey can tell you what year "Hollywood Squares" first aired. If you told Jamey your birthday once he would remember it forever. Even though Jamey was different I learned to love an understand him.

Jamey is the kind of person who shines with positivity. He always seems to be happy and having a good time even if he is having a good time that my mother. She has shown me that throughout life I will be faced with many

hardships. The truth that my mom always forced on us was that we could do anything we wanted, so long as we put our minds to it. She is living proof that no matter how hard life is things will get better.

Throughout my mother's childhood she was stricken with poverty. She had a hard father

and a housewife mom. At age 15 she dropped out of high school and became pregnant. With no education, she couldn't get any jobs so she relied on her parents. At age 19 she was married to three more children.

My mom was married to a husband who worked, but our family never had any money. One day he went to work but didn't come back. My mom had to work in the chicken plant. I could only remember coming home and finding my mom there, with the food ready and that smile on her face.

For the next 2 years of my life, I would see my mom sleeping during the day and working at night. I no longer had my father and had lost my mother to work.

About a half year later, my mom broke her back. At age 9, I think she couldn't move. If it wasn't for my older sister Elizabeth, caring for my mom would have been a burden. Jamey prays for the simple things like, finding his wallet, the most important, like a sick loved one. Jamey believes in a simple truth, that God loves and hears us. I think that through the business of church we forget that simple fact. I'm glad we have Jamey to remind us of it.

I know that my cousin may never grow up to lead a country or be a famous sports figure. He may never even get his driver's license. But Jamey helps his world by being himself. His belief in the goodness of others and his sincere faith inspires all who know him. What else could be more admirable?

Hardships of Life

by Carlos Aruz

Throughout my life I have never met people whom I have grown to love and cherish. There is no one, however, that I love more than my mother. She has shown me that throughout life I will be faced with many

days that will be hard.

My mom lives life to the fullest, every day. She works really hard at the tasks that face her. Grandma does not care what other people think about her sense of style or way of living. She inspires others around her by revealing her positive attitude. Her positive attitude makes the old as well as the young people around her feel like they can do anything if she can. When you look at my grandma you might think that she is a feeble old woman, but truly she is energetic and outgoing. My grandma has never been sick or hospitalized. My grandma's "live life to the fullest" attitude has inspired me to take chances and never give up on life.

My mom tells me that one day she hopes to become a senator or governor of Alabama. I believe her, since she's gone from a high school dropout to one of the most important Hispanics in the state. She has shown me that your destiny, although it might be headed one way, can suddenly change and go another. I will always remember her motto, "you can do anything, so long as you put your mind to it." She's been right. It's gotten her this far and will continue taking her further as her dreams become reality.

My grandma Hagler is a wonderful lady that I could not imagine life without. She has been an inspiration to me and I will always be thankful for that.

Some people are not so lucky. They have lost their grandma's early in life. I look at those who are unfortunate and thank my lucky stars that God has let me have my grandma so long. I will be graduating this year and it will mean everything to me to have my grandma sitting in the audience watching me walk the aisle to get my diploma. Later in life I hope that my grandma can make it to my college graduation and wedding. It will mean the world to me to see her smiling up at me whispering those wonderful words of wisdom, "I knew you could do it."



PIC OF THE WEEK (by Alex Allen)...Assume the position.

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ON ALL
PRESCRIPTIONS
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
60 years and older

Lemonade Essay
by Kaci Grantham

My grandma, Mary Ann Hagler, is not only an essential

part of my life, but she has inspired me through her teachings and ways of dealing with everyday problems. Her triumph and outlook on life is enough to inspire anyone. Whenever I am sad or depressed she always makes me smile. Whether it is her problems, friend problems, or family problems, she is always there to console me with her grace and beautiful words. She is an amazing woman with a huge heart. There is nothing you could say or do that offends or in any way makes her upset or mad. She allows life to pass by without letting the little things bother her. My grandma has influenced me to reach my educational goals and live life to the fullest.

After graduation my grandma did not attend college. She immediately started working. Though she has recently lost her job, she has chosen to attend Enterprise Ozark Community College and finish her schooling. It takes a lot of courage for a 63-year-old woman to attend a junior college consisting mostly of young adults. Although home work, speeches, and finals all seem new to someone who has not been in school for 45 years, she is managing herself well and making good grades. Her outlook on college has encouraged me to take the next step in my college life. She has influenced me to reach my goals no matter how difficult the task.

My grandma lives life to the fullest, every day. She works really hard at the tasks that face her. Grandma does not care what other people think about her sense of style or way of living. She inspires others around her by revealing her positive attitude. Her positive attitude makes the old as well as the young people around her feel like they can do anything if she can. When you look at my grandma you might think that she is a feeble old woman, but truly she is energetic and outgoing. My grandma has never been sick or hospitalized. My grandma's "live life to the fullest" attitude has inspired me to take chances and never give up on life.

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SPORTS

Views from...

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Melanie will turn fifteen in a couple of weeks and has already begun to study her driver's manual in preparation for taking her written test to get a learner's permit. Even though I have refused to let her behind the wheel until she gets her permit, I will have no problem riding next to her and helping teach her how to drive once she gets the piece of paper that makes it all legal. The problem will come when she fusses about driving the family van, and big sister fusses about letting her drive her car. I am confident I can solve that problem, too, but will wait until the time comes.

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

*** Elba High School is once again hunting for a head football coach after last week's announcement that Coach Mike Waters had turned in his resignation. Coach Waters came to Elba six years ago as an assistant for head coach David Sikes, served for one year as an assistant for Julius Head, and then was promoted to the head coaching position after Head's resignation. Elba had a 1-9 record in Head's only season as head coach, but with Waters in charge the Tigers posted a 7-5 record the next season and advanced to the second round of the state playoffs. The last two seasons Elba struggled to an overall record of 8-12, and in 2003 the Tigers managed to win only three games and finished the season near the bottom of the region standings. While there was little doubt there was much work to do in the Elba program, there was no doubt that Coach Waters was willing to work to help the program move forward. Apparently Coach Waters felt the best thing for the program was to let a new coach come in and lead Elba as it makes the move into the 2A ranks. Coach Waters gave six years of his life to helping make the Elba Tigers the best they could be, and is to be thanked for his devotion to the football team, and the overall athletic program.

*** The Elba Tigers won one and lost one last week in basketball action to move their record to 10-7 on the season. The Tigers struggled on Tuesday night before rallying to get past pesky New Brockton, then saw a late rally fall short Friday night in a tough road loss to Luverne. With three weeks left in the regular season it is time for the Tigers to begin to jell on both offense and defense and to start playing well on both ends of the court every time they take the court. When the Tigers hold their opponents to less than sixty points they should win the game, but that has not been the case as the offense still seems reluctant to take open shots and the lack of scoring punch keeps the games close until the final buzzer. There is no doubt Elba can play defense and has the quickness to cause problems for any opponent it may face. However, until the Tigers gain some consistency on the offensive end they will have to scratch and claw to win, no matter who they play.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers picked up two road wins last week to move to 8-6 on the season and it looks like the Elba girls are beginning to come together at just the right time. The Lady Tigers got off to a slow start and were given up for dead by many fans, but the girls have never quit working and are now playing very well every time they hit the court. This bunch of girls may not have a super star to rely on, but they do play well as a team and my guess is they still have a few more surprises up their sleeves.

*** The Elba team in the area has to be the Kinston Bulldogs. Coach Greg Givens has to be one of the area's best coaches to move atop the area standings and unless they collapse down the stretch seem on course to claim their first area title in years. The Bulldogs struggled early in the season and owned a 2-8 record heading out of the holiday break, but have come out playing like champions in the new year and have the tools to keep on winning as the season heads down the home stretch. Kinston has a true force inside in 6-5 Jeremy Driver and two solid three-point shooters in J.T. Wiggins and Ramsey Phillips, and last week against Zion Chapel scored inside when the Rebels played man-to-man and then burned the nets from behind the arc when Rebels backed up in a zone. With offensive weapons like that, the Bulldogs might very well be the team to beat when the area tournament tips off in a couple of weeks.

*** New Brockton's Gamecocks ruled the roost for years in basketball and would play one of the toughest schedules in the state to prove just how good they were. Those fortunes have changed over at New Brockton; however, as the Gamecocks saw their record slip to 2-15 last week with losses to Elba and G.W. Long. I have seen the Gamecocks play and will say without a doubt that they are much better than their record may make one think. New Brockton has pretty good size and a couple of very athletic players, but just can't seem to get a break and post a win that could help turn things around. Their record will mean nothing when the area tournament tips off in a couple of weeks, and despite the record, my guess is that the Gamecocks will be a dangerous team in the tournament. Remember, you read it here.

*** Auburn's recruiting season got a much needed shot in the arm last week when Carnell Williams and Ronnie Brown both announced they would stay in school for their senior season. The Tigers had been struggling along the recruiting trail since the end of the season and many Auburn fans believed that if Williams and Brown both turned pro next year's Tigers would be as easy to trash as the Tiger on the cereal box. Now that the duo have announced they would return things should pick up and Auburn should be able to close the recruiting season with a bang.

*** I have enjoyed reading about the \$60 million lawsuit filed by former Alabama coaches Ronnie Cottrell and Ivy Williams against the NCAA, and last week really got interested when a federal judge in Memphis released some paperwork that revealed Tennessee coach Phil Fulmer played a major role in having the Crimson Tide football program placed on probation. The NCAA had fought to keep the paperwork secret, in the lawsuit and had successfully prevented anyone from learning the "secret" and that helped in the case against Alabama. However, the federal case involved many of the same characters and once the paperwork became public last week, became clear that Fulmer was the key witness in the NCAA's case against the Tide. Most observers have said from the start that Cottrell and Williams would get a huge settlement from the NCAA in an attempt to keep the workings of the NCAA out of public view, but that was before last week. While it may be true Cottrell and Williams will soon be millionaires, maybe now the NCAA will finally have to answer some questions of its own and the organization will be forced to make major changes, or be disbanded. I vote for the latter.

*** In closing... Congratulations are in order for Elba basketball coach Karl Bledsoe and his fiance Melanie Waddell now that their engagement has been made official. I used to kid Coach Bledsoe that the only reason he dressed up for games was to impress the ladies in the stands, and now that he will soon join the ranks of the married men I will keep an eye on his wardrobe and see if the black sports coat stays in the closet.

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 Elba residents
 attend annual
 Bassmaster
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INSIDE
 Lindsey Carnley
 of Elba recently
 killed her first
 deer

The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 33 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, January 29, 2004 1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Toledo Molding update given to Elba Rotarians at recent luncheon

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba Rotary Club members listened with interest as Toledo Molding & Die plant manager Keith Regal and members of his management staff gave an update on construction of the new Elba plant and showed a video of what they

could expect to see going on in the 9,200 sq foot Elba plant, once production begins.

This is the fourth plant the company has opened in the past ten years. The company was first started in 1955.

Regal said the company was

producing a high quality product and this was one of their strongest selling points for new business.

Plastic parts for automobiles will be manufactured by both injection molding and blow molding.

He also told Rotarians they stress safety in the workplace. Both the two different manufacturing processes used in molding automobile parts in the Elba plant will use high temperature and company associates are trained and constantly reminded to wear safety equipment and be cautious as they go about their assignments.

The company will work both men and women in the manufacturing process, said Regal. In fact some of the company's facilities have a majority women working in the manufacturing process.

Regal said production workers would begin hands-on training this month, actually molding parts. He didn't give a date when they would begin making parts to be shipped to customers.

By the end of 2004 the company hopes to have 80 production workers and about 20 office and management employees working in the new Elba plant.

Enterprise Water System

Enterprise Mayor Kenneth Bowell addressed the commission to get its approval for the sale saying the paperwork had already been signed, but the commission must give approval to the sale.

Adkins said his church will

sponsor a youth conference in

March, and he expects participants from as far as Georgia and Mississippi. He said the church used the farm center last year for the same purpose and hosted nearly 400 youth.

Commissioners also granted

his request with an unanimous vote.

Commissioner Doug

Dalyrymple, who's district the water system is located, said he had some questions for Bowell and the water superintendent for Enterprise. He said his main concern was for those residents caught in the middle in getting the too great water coverage from the city.

Dalyrymple said he spoke to

Bowell prior to the meeting,

and the mayor assured him his

questions and concerns would be

addressed. Therefore, he offered a motion to allow the sale of the water authority contingent upon his concerns being met.

His motion received a second

from commission chairman

Robert Stephen and passed by a unanimous vote.

Commissioners entertained

two separate requests for use of

the farm center with the rental

and insurance fee being waived.

Christy Norris addressed

commissioners on behalf of

local girl scouts and said the

groups would like to use the

building on April 24 for a

Thinking Day Program.

With this program, Norris

said the girl scout groups pick

different countries to study and

learn about. Then, on April 24th,

they will share their newly

acquired knowledge by setting

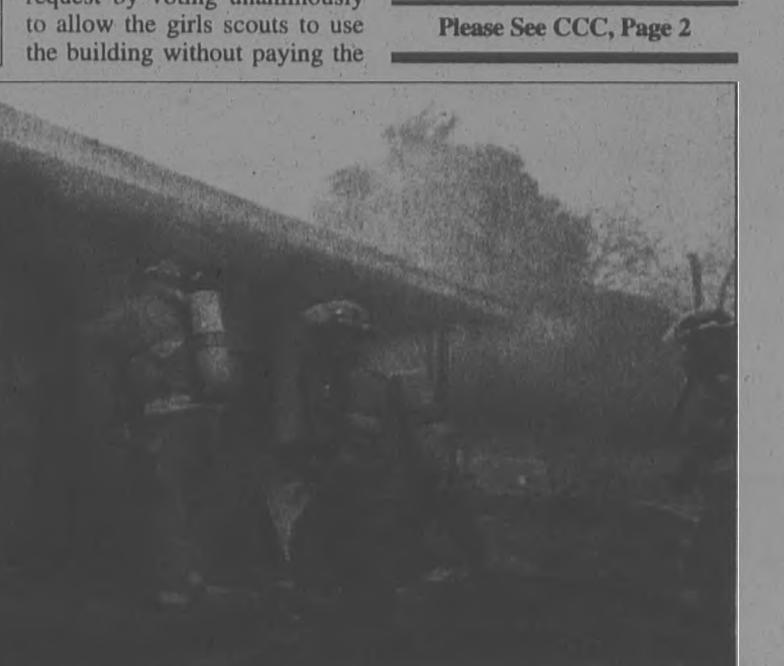
up booths at the farm center.

Commissioners granted the

request by voting unanimously

to allow the girl scouts to use

the building without paying the



NEW TOLEDO MOLDING & DIE PLANT now under construction on the 203 Bypass in Elba is nearing completion. Company officials have already begun training new employees on equipment in the new plant, even as the finishing touches are being done to the facility. When completed and running at full production, the facility will employ about 120 workers.

During Coffee County Commission meeting

Sale of Mount Pleasant/Battens Water Authority approved

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission held a short and routine meeting Monday, Jan. 26, as the group gave its approval for the sale of the Mount Pleasant/Battens Water Authority to the City of

Elba.

Enterprise Water System

Enterprise Mayor Kenneth Bowell addressed the commission to get its approval for the sale saying the paperwork had already been signed, but the commission must give approval to the sale.

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Commissioners also granted

his request with an unanimous vote.

Commissioner Linda

Westbrook spoke on behalf of

the Coffee County Water

Authority board as she announced a third sign-up meeting for Phase II of the water system expansion project.

This phase of the project

includes residents in the northern part of the county, and Westbrook said the sign-up meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Victoria Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

She said the water authority is

just past the halfway point of

reaching its needed 400-600

sign-ups with just over 200 residents signed up as of Friday, Jan. 23.

This phase of the expansion

project will be the last chance

residents in the northern part

of the county have to bring the

water system to their area;

therefore, Westbrook encouraged

all interested residents to

either attend the sign-up meet

ing or to contact the Coffee

County Water Authority office

Please See FINANCES, Page 2

Please See CCC, Page 2

New voting lines bring changes for some voters

As determined by shifts in population shown by the 2000 Federal census, Coffee County was required to re-draw some of the voting lines for its voter districts and/or precincts.

Redrawing those lines was the responsibility of the Coffee County Commission, which was in charge of the voters within those lines was the responsibility of the Coffee County Board of Registrars.

According to Gil Kelley, chairman of the Coffee County Board of Registrars, the redistricting is nearly complete, and new voting cards for those affected by the new lines will be mailed the last of January and throughout February. Only about 10 percent of the voters will be affected by the redistricting; only those voters being moved will receive new voter I.D. cards.

If a voter does not receive a new card by the end of February, he can assume he is not being moved and will con-

tinue to vote at the same place he voted previously.

In assigning voter places, the Board of Registrars used new maps of Coffee County, Enterprise, Elba, and New Brockton. If a voter has a question about his new voting place, he is welcome to inspect those maps in the Office of the Board of Registrars located at 1065 McKinnon Street (the Farm Center) in New Brockton or call the Board of Registrars at 894-5347.

Office hours of the Board of Registrars are from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Area Happenings

THE 2004 "VALENTINE SWEETHEART PAGEANT" will be held Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium. Age divisions will include 0-11 months, 1-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years and 15-18 years. The Elba Masonic Lodge #170 is sponsoring the pageant. For more information, call Starla Amerson at 897-8101 (after 4 p.m.); Herb Winters at 897-3095; Scott Cole at 897-3200 or Ray Kyle at 897-5851.

RELAY FOR LIFE IN COFFEE COUNTY will be Friday, May 14, at the Enterprise-Oakwood Community College Campus. Any company, church or organization interested in having a team for this year's event should call Jenny Tidmore at the American Cancer Society office at (334) 794-0200, ext. 2. Time to For A Cure is the theme for the event.

THE COFFEE COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION is sponsoring a Firefighter I Volunteer Certification Course hosted by the Elba Fire Department. Firemen from local fire departments including the Elba Fire Dept., Battens Volunteer Fire Dept., Goodman Volunteer Fire Dept., Tri Community Volunteer Fire Dept. and Headland Fire Dept. started this class in Sept. 2003 and will complete the course in May 2004. The course curriculum is taught through the Alabama Fire College and consists of 160 hours of classroom instruction which includes orientation and safety, personal protective equipment, fire behavior, forcible entry, search and rescue, water supply and a first responders. Along with classroom instruction, firemen also get to participate in practical exercises like the one shown above. This is a typical response to a structure fire where one team of firemen are conducting an initial attack on a fire. At the same time, another team is conducting a search and rescue for victims that may be trapped in the burning structure.